PART

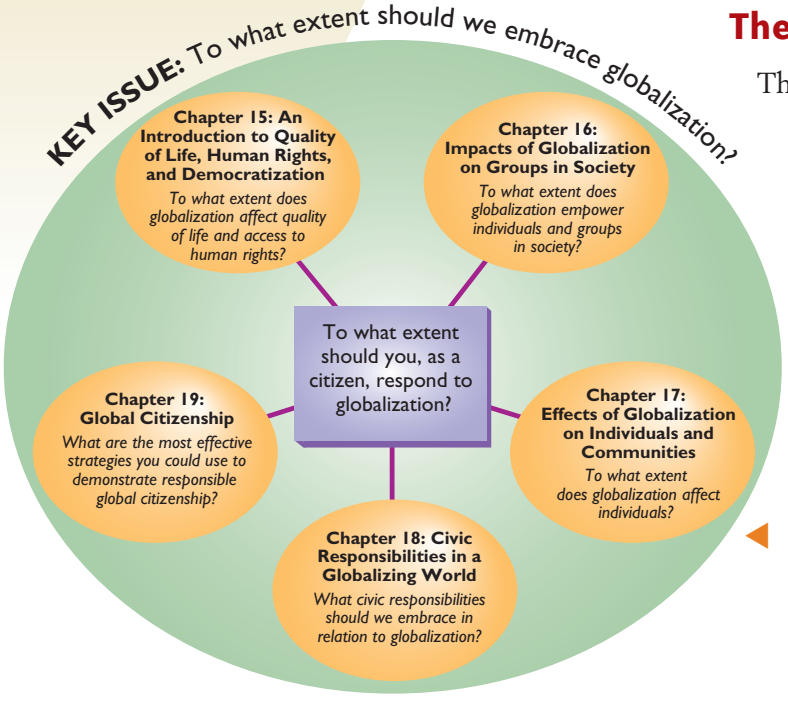
4

Roles and Responsibilities in a Globalizing World

The Key Issue for this course asks, ***To what extent should we embrace globalization?*** To consider this issue, you began, in Part 1, by reflecting on the many ways that globalization can affect our individual and collective identities. In Part 2, you thought about how historical globalization affected people in the past and how its legacy continues to be felt, so you have gained some historical perspective. In Part 3, you explored the economic and environmental impacts of globalization in the world today.

Now, you will explore the Main Issue for Part 4: ***To what extent should you, as a citizen, respond to globalization?*** How is globalization affecting the world's peoples today? In what ways does it alter the lives of women and children, individuals and communities, and quality of life and human rights everywhere? What responsibilities do we have to address the many opportunities and challenges that globalization poses for our world? How can our organizations, governments, and businesses help us address these issues?

Finally, you must ask yourself, what is your role in all this? What obligation do you have to be a responsible global citizen?


KEY ISSUE: To what extent should we embrace globalization?
Chapter 15: An Introduction to Quality of Life, Human Rights, and Democratization
To what extent does globalization affect quality of life and access to human rights?
Chapter 16: Impacts of Globalization on Groups in Society
To what extent does globalization empower individuals and groups in society?
To what extent should you, as a citizen, respond to globalization?
Chapter 19: Global Citizenship
What are the most effective strategies you could use to demonstrate responsible global citizenship?
Chapter 17: Effects of Globalization on Individuals and Communities
To what extent does globalization affect individuals?
Chapter 18: Civic Responsibilities in a Globalizing World
What civic responsibilities should we embrace in relation to globalization?

The Photographs

The photographs on the next page show Canadians embracing their role as active global citizens. In the bottom photograph, you see a newcomer to Canada receiving information from an employee of the *Centre d'accueil et d'établissement de la région d'Edmonton*. This agency was initiated by citizens from Edmonton's Francophone community to help French-speaking newcomers to the area. It aims to make French-speakers feel

In every chapter, you will explore an issue that will help you form an opinion about the Main Issue for Part 4 of this text: ***To what extent should you, as a citizen, respond to globalization?*** Look at the five Chapter Issues. As you work through Part 4, think about what strategies you might want to use to demonstrate your responsible global citizenship.

welcome, to help them get established, and to show them how they can live in French in the Edmonton area.

At right, you see two photographs of a Québécois Francophone who chose to act as a responsible global citizen in a very different way. Before finishing her law degree, Pascale Fournier, travelled to Egypt to volunteer in the New Brunswick–Egypt 1995–96 Canada World Youth program. Here she worked with Rania Gomaa to raise awareness about the equality rights of women in Egyptian society. Earlier, the two had worked together in Moncton, New Brunswick, to make a film on a similar issue. In Fournier's words, Gomaa is "… a tireless fighter with a limitless reserve of hope that gives you the motivation when you are feeling noble and brave, to seize the reins of power and try to alter the course of events." Together, these two used the opportunities of globalization to work together on common problems.

The Franco-Albertans who created the Welcome Centre and Fournier both took a step to address a challenge or make use of an opportunity of globalization. Each has chosen to work at building or improving a community, here at home or in a distant country.

In a sense, community is at the heart of any question we ask about globalization. After you evaluate the effects of globalization on your community, you have a choice to make: To what extent will you respond? Perhaps you will get involved through an international humanitarian organization. Perhaps you will participate in a petition to let the government know what you think. Perhaps you will start by making a change in the way you live your life. Being a responsible global citizen can be that simple.